Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Dos Rios Ranch

Application Label: 200784112

Location: The confluence on the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers, 9 miles west of downtown Modesto.

County: Stanislaus

Project Sponsor: River Partners

Point of Contact: John Carlon, President (530) 894-5401 jcarlon@riverpartners.org

Co-applicant(s): N/A

Assembly District: #26 Greg Aghazarian **Senate District:** # 12 Jeff Denham

Project Description (including size): The proposed project includes the acquisition of 1,603 acres of land to increase the active floodplain at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers. The total project cost is $26.2 million. The project funding request is for $5 million of that $3.4 million will go toward the purchase price and the remainder for staff, closing costs, and related acquisition tasks. Following property acquisition, the farm levees along the river will be removed to reconnect the river and its floodplain, and restore about 6 miles of riparian habitat along the Rivers.

Flood Benefits: Reconnecting the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rives to their floodplain by removing private (and eventually the Army Corps of Engineers) levees would increase transitory storage by potentially more than 10,000 acre feet. This has the potential to provide significant floodwater attenuation at the confluence of two major rivers, especially if the transitory storage behind the USACE levees can be timed to optimize flood benefits in extreme flood events. The transient water storage capacity of the Ranch provides the opportunity to reduce peak flow flood risk on upstream and downstream reaches of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers. Additionally, by obtaining the capability to flood the Dos Rios property during relatively large flood events, very significant operational changes can be facilitated at Don Pedro Reservoir.

Agricultural Benefits: The Dos Rios Ranch land acquisition is part of a flood corridor protection and wildlife habitat project. The project is not intended to preserve agriculture on the Ranch, but will complement surrounding agricultural operations by reducing flood risk on adjacent properties.

Agricultural Land Conserved: N/A

Wildlife Benefits: The project will restore riparian and wetland habitat throughout the 1,603 acre Dos Rios Ranch. In addition, the ecological benefits of the project are magnified by its location and close proximity to existing riparian habitat and other restoration projects.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved: The proposed project improves wildlife habitat by reducing the impacts associated with agriculture and by protecting and restoring quality habitat along the 6 miles of riverfront property on the Ranch. In addition, 1,400 acres will be restored over time into mixed riparian forest and the remaining 140 acres will be restored into upland flood refugia. Habitat improvements will benefit the endangered riparian brush rabbit, riparian wood rat, least Bell's vireo, and many other species of concern.

Total area conserved: The total acreage conserved is 1,603 acres.

Other Benefits: This project will improve opportunities for residents of neighboring areas to enjoy the rivers and associated wildlife activities, while understanding the overall benefit of the ecosystem to the region. The project may also have groundwater recharge and water quality benefits.

Total Cost: $26,199,254

FPCP Funding Request: $5,000,000

Management Team Funding Recommendation: $3,000,000 with the following conditions: The purchase option on the property must be funded from another source. The balance of the funding needed to purchase the property must be secured within the life of the purchase option. If funding is obtained from the Wildlife Conservation Board from the Floodway Corridor Program funds in Proposition 1E, the Proposition 84 funds from the FPCP would be reduced by an equivalent amount. The property must be made available for mitigation for DWR flood projects proportion to DWR's investment in the project. The feasibility of timing transitory storage on the site during extreme flood events to optimize flood benefits must be explored, and if feasible, this option must be made available to DWR.

Funding Partners and Share of Cost: Tuolumne River Trust has raised $1,121,080 from various sources (bureau of Reclamation), National Fish and Wildlife Founding, and Resource Legacy Fund Foundation. The trust has also submitted a $2,650,000 grant to the Resources Agency Proposition 50 River Parkways Program.

Flood reviewers response to management review questions (3/18/2008):

How will the private and USACE levee breeches impact adjacent properties?
Much of the existing and surrounding properties are within the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, the Dos Rios and surrounding property frequently floods, as shown in the

application. Due to the Project's location, once the levees at the Ranch are breeched, impacts to the surrounding areas should be minimal. The application indicates that the breaches will allow floodwater to enter the property, which will reduce flow velocity in the main channel(s) and will benefit flood management by reducing scouring effects and pressure on nearby levees. Generally, the application is correct, however, the levee breeches may also result in some additional pressure on adjacent levees. Based on the recent site visit, it appeared that surrounding private levees were similar in height to the onsite private levee, which is frequently overtopped during significant flood events. The application states that the "design and specification of the breaching and floodplain excavation would need to be developed." The application did not include an analysis specifically addressing these issues (the only analysis was based on the changing operations of the upstream dam). Further analysis is necessary, and will be accomplished as part of the applicants plan to minimize impacts to adjacent landowners, a standard requirement of every funding agreement. This project will mostly benefit downstream levees.

The grant funding agreement would be contingent on including in the scope of work the completion of a hydraulic analysis and ensuring that the breaches will be done in a manner that would minimize impacts to adjacent properties.

How will this project impact the current San Joaquin River restoration efforts?

This project is downstream of the Merced River and the San Joaquin River Restoration Project; however, the additional habitat will further enhance the wildlife benefits of the upstream projects. Central District's Division Chief strongly supports this project because it complements the upstream San Joaquin restoration efforts.